

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A non-woven mat of inorganic fiber, comprising:
said mat having a substance weight/unit area varying in a cross direction; and
at least one edge margin of said mat is of lower substance weight/unit area than the
remainder of said mat,
wherein said mat is permeable to a gypsum plaster slurry.

13. (Currently Amended) The mat according to claim 12, wherein opposed edge margins
of said mat are of lower substance weight/unit area than the remainder of said mat.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of making a non-woven mat of
inorganic fiber having a substance weight/unit area varying in a cross direction, at least one edge
margin of said mat being of lower substance than the remainder of the mat and said being permeable
to a gypsum plaster slurry, comprising:

passing a forming wire past a slurry of inorganic fibers in a liquid while masking a
part of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry, the part of the forming wire corresponding to
an edge margin of the formed mat and the masking varying along a length of the forming wire as it
passes through the slurry;

urging the slurry against the forming wire and causing the liquid to pass through the forming wire; and

forming the non-woven mat of inorganic fiber having an uneven substance weight/unit area in the cross direction.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein said masked part of said forming wire corresponds to both edge margins of the formed mat.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of decreasing the masking in a direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of decreasing the masking in a direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of achieving the masking by passing a face of the forming wire remote from the slurry across a blinding plate as the forming wire passes the slurry.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of achieving the masking by passing a face of the forming wire remote from the slurry across a blinding plate as the forming wire passes the slurry.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) An apparatus for forming a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber having a substance weight/unit area varying in a cross direction, said mat being permeable to a gypsum plaster slurry comprising:

 a source of a slurry of inorganic fiber in a liquid;
 a forming wire disposed to move past said source, the liquid passing through the forming wire to deposit the inorganic fiber on the forming wire;

 a mask across a part of a width of the forming wire corresponding to at least one edge margin of the formed mat to hinder passage of the liquid through the forming wire over said part, the effectiveness of the mask varying in a direction of movement of the forming wire past the source.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said mask is across parts of the width of the forming wire corresponding to both edge margins of the formed mat.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the effectiveness of the mask decreases in the direction in which the forming wire is disposed to move.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the effectiveness of the mask decreases in the direction in which the forming wire is disposed to move.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the mask is a blinding plate impinging a face of the forming wire remote from the source of slurry.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the mask is a blinding plate impinging a face of the forming wire remote from the source of slurry.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein an effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

30. (Withdrawn) A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber according to claim 12 embedded immediately below at least one surface thereof.

31. (Withdrawn) A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber according to claim 13 embedded immediately below at least one surface thereof.

32. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A cementitious board, comprising: a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fiber embedded immediately below at least one surface thereof, wherein said mat is permeable to a gypsum plaster slurry and a permeability of the mat to cementitious gypsum plaster slurry varies across the mat.